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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Housing and Land Management

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Item 2(b) of the provisional agenda
Review of the implementation of the programme of work 2017-2018
Sustainable housing and real estate markets

Draft Terms of Reference of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group for 2019-2020

Note by the Bureau of the Committee

Summary

At its seventy-sixth session (Geneva, 14 and 15 December 2015), the Committee on Housing and Land Management recommended that the ECE Executive Committee renew the mandate and the terms of reference of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group until 2018. At its eighty-third meeting on 14 March 2016 the Executive Committee approved this decision (ECE/EX/2016/L.8).

The Committee is invited to recommend the extension of the mandate of the Advisory Group until the end of 2020, to endorse these revised terms of reference and recommend to the Executive Committee to renew the mandate, and approve the terms of reference of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group until end of 2020.

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I. Objectives

1. The Real Estate Market (REM) Advisory Group supports the Committee and the Working Party on Land Administration in the implementation of their programmes of work, with special attention to cluster one of the Committee's programme of work, "Sustainable Housing and Real Estate Markets".

2. The Advisory Group assists the Committee and the Working Party on Land Administration to develop stronger and more sustainable housing real estate markets and reports to both bodies.

II. Activities

3. The activities of the Advisory Group address:

(a) Energy efficient housing;

(b) Building standards;

(c) Affordable and social housing and real estate economics (including sharing economy);

(d) Housing finance (including transparent and advanced financial products for housing);

(e) Management of multi-apartment buildings;

(f) Property valuation and registration;

(g) Smart and sustainable urban development; and

(h) Land markets and land administration.

4. The Advisory Group will, according to the needs expressed by member States and following the decisions taken by the Committee:

(a) Provide practical advice on the challenges addressed by the Committee and the Working Party in order to improve conditions for sustainable housing, urban development, and land management;

(b) Prepare guidelines and best practices that support sustainable housing, urban development and land management, including best practices for encouraging investment in national housing real estate markets;

(c) Recommend activities to the Committee and Working Party for their programmes of work;

(d) Assist the Committee and the Working Party to undertake studies and advisory missions; organize seminars and training workshops; draft policy documents and guidelines; collect data; disseminate information on the activities of the Committee and develop training material;

(e) Work with the Committee and the Working Party to assist countries with training and capacity-building for stakeholders acting in the housing market;

(f) Collect examples of good practice in housing, urban development and land administration reforms in the UNECE region; and

(g) Assist the Committee and the Working Party with specific projects at their request.

5. The Advisory Group may propose specific activities. The final decision on activities to be carried out by the Advisory Group remains with the Committee.

6. The Chair of the Advisory Group will, when possible and necessary, attend meetings of the Bureau of the Committee to discuss and present the work of the Advisory Group.

III. Membership

7. The selection of an Advisory Group member will be in line with the document "Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within UNECE" (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1) and the following rules and principles:

(a) Members of the Advisory Group must be nominated by member States or by non-governmental organizations recognized by the Economic and Social Council or identified and proposed by the secretariat;

(b) Members shall be representatives of private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia and municipalities;

(c) Each member State or non-governmental organization may nominate, at most, one member of the Advisory Group at a time;

(d) Nominations must be submitted to the secretariat at least 14 days before the Committee session in which the nomination is to be submitted;

(e) Nominations must be renewed, or new nominations submitted, when the mandate of the Advisory Group is extended, normally, every two years.

8. The composition of the Advisory Group should, to the extent possible, include members whose knowledge and experience cover all areas under the Committee's programme of work with special focus to the area of "Sustainable Housing and Real Estate Markets".

9. Members of the Advisory Group participate in activities of the Committee in their own personal capacity[1]

10. The Advisory Group will select from its own members a Chair and one or two vice-chairs. The Chair and the vice-chair(s) remain in charge for a period of maximum two years. The renewal of their appointment is possible for a maximum of two more years.

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[1] Members who have proved not to be active for at least one whole year without a written notification to the secretariat will be automatically removed by the secretariat who will inform him/her via email. Members who prove not to be active include those members who do not participate in meetings and e-meetings, do not contribute in written to studies and other activities of the Group, do not reply to emails and messages by the secretariat.